



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017

CONTACTS:

Jeff Cranson, MDOT Director of Communications, 517-648-8247, cransonj@michigan.gov

James Lake, MDOT Office of Communications, 906-250-0993, lakej1@michigan.gov

Shanon Banner, MSP Public Affairs Manager, 517-284-3222, banners@michigan.gov

MDOT and Michigan State Police announce freeway and non-freeway corridors selected for speed limit increases

April 26, 2017 -- In accordance with new state law, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Michigan State Police (MSP) have identified 900 miles of non-freeway state highways for speed limit increases to 65 mph, and 600 miles of freeway for speed limit increases to 75 mph. Select freeway routes will have increased speed limits posted beginning May 1.

Public Act 445, passed by the state Legislature in late 2016, tasked the two agencies with increasing speed limits on some state highways and freeways based on 85th-percentile speeds (the speed at or below which 85 percent of traffic is moving) and the results of engineering and safety studies. The law requires that these modified speed limits be in place prior to Jan. 5, 2018.

"The corridors identified by MDOT and MSP were selected not only because studies indicated most drivers were already driving at those increased speeds, but also because their design and safety features were best suited to these speed limits," said State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. "We reviewed design speeds, crash patterns, number of access points, traffic volumes and continuity of these corridors, and chose them to minimize necessary improvements for higher speed limits."

"The engineering and safety studies conducted utilized the 85th-percentile speed, which is a national scientifically proven method to determine and establish safe speed limits," stated Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue, director of the MSP. "Troopers and motor carrier officers do, and will

continue to, aggressively enforce all posted speed limits to ensure compliance by the motoring public."

MDOT will begin posting new speed limits beginning May 1, starting with three freeway routes:

- I-75 – Bay City to US-23 in Mackinaw City (Bay, Arenac, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Crawford, Otsego, Cheboygan, and Emmet counties), and St. Ignace to Sault Ste. Marie (Mackinac and Chippewa counties)
- US-127 – I-69 to the end of the freeway at St. Johns (Clinton County), and the beginning of the freeway at Ithaca to I-75 (Grafton, Isabella, Clare, Roscommon, and Crawford counties)
- US-131 – M-57 to the end of the freeway north of Manton (Kent, Montcalm, Mecosta, Osceola, and Wexford counties)

New speed limits will be posted on those three routes by mid-May. MDOT also will begin installing sign overlays reflecting the new 65 mph speed limit for trucks and school buses on state roadways with posted speed limits of 65 mph or greater. The new maximum speed limit for trucks and school buses was another change prompted by Public Act 445.

MDOT and MSP are finalizing the administrative processes and signing traffic control orders to implement increased speed limits on the remaining freeway and non-freeway corridors. New speed limits will be posted on all of the selected freeway and non-freeway routes prior to mid-November.

The other corridors reviewed and selected for increased speed limits are:

Limited-access freeways

- I-69 – I-69 Business Route (Saginaw Highway) to Swartz Creek (Clinton, Shiawassee, and Genesee counties)
- I-69 – From the Genesee/Lapeer county line to I-94 (Genesee, Lapeer, and St. Clair counties)
- US-10 – M-115 to I-75 (Clare, Isabella, Midland, and Bay counties)
- US-31 – South Oceana County line to US-10 (Oceana and Mason counties)

Non-freeways

- US-2 – Wakefield to Iron River (Gogebic and Iron counties)
- US-2 – St. Ignace to Rapid River (Mackinac, Schoolcraft, and Delta counties)
- US-23 – East of Cheboygan to east of M-65 (Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties)
- US-45 – North of US-2 to M-26 (Gogebic and Ontonagon counties)

- M-28 – East of Harvey to Christmas (Marquette and Alger counties)
- M-28 – Munising to I-75 (Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, and Chippewa counties)
- M-28 – Wakefield to US-41 (Gogebic, Ontonagon, Houghton, and Baraga counties)
- M-32 – Atlanta to Alpena (Montmorency and Alpena counties)
- M-33 – Atlanta to Onaway (Montmorency and Presque Isle counties)
- M-37 – Mesick to Wolf Lake (Wexford and Lake counties)
- M-55 – US-31 to Cadillac West (Manistee and Wexford counties)
- M-64 – M-28 to Old M-107 (Ontonagon County)
- M-65 – US-23 to M-32 west junction (Arenac, Iosco, Alcona, and Alpena counties)
- M-65 – M-32 east junction to US-23 (Alpena and Presque Isle counties)
- M-68 – I-75 to US-23 (Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties)
- M-72 – Grayling to Mio (Crawford and Oscoda counties)
- M-72 – Fairview to M-65 north junction (Oscoda and Alcona counties)
- M-72 – M-65 south junction to Harrisville (Alcona County)
- M-77 – US-2 to M-28 (Schoolcraft County)
- M-115 – Benzonia to Mesick (Benzie and Wexford counties)
- M-123 – I-75 to Paradise (Mackinac and Chippewa counties)
- M-231 – M-45 to M-104 (Ottawa County)

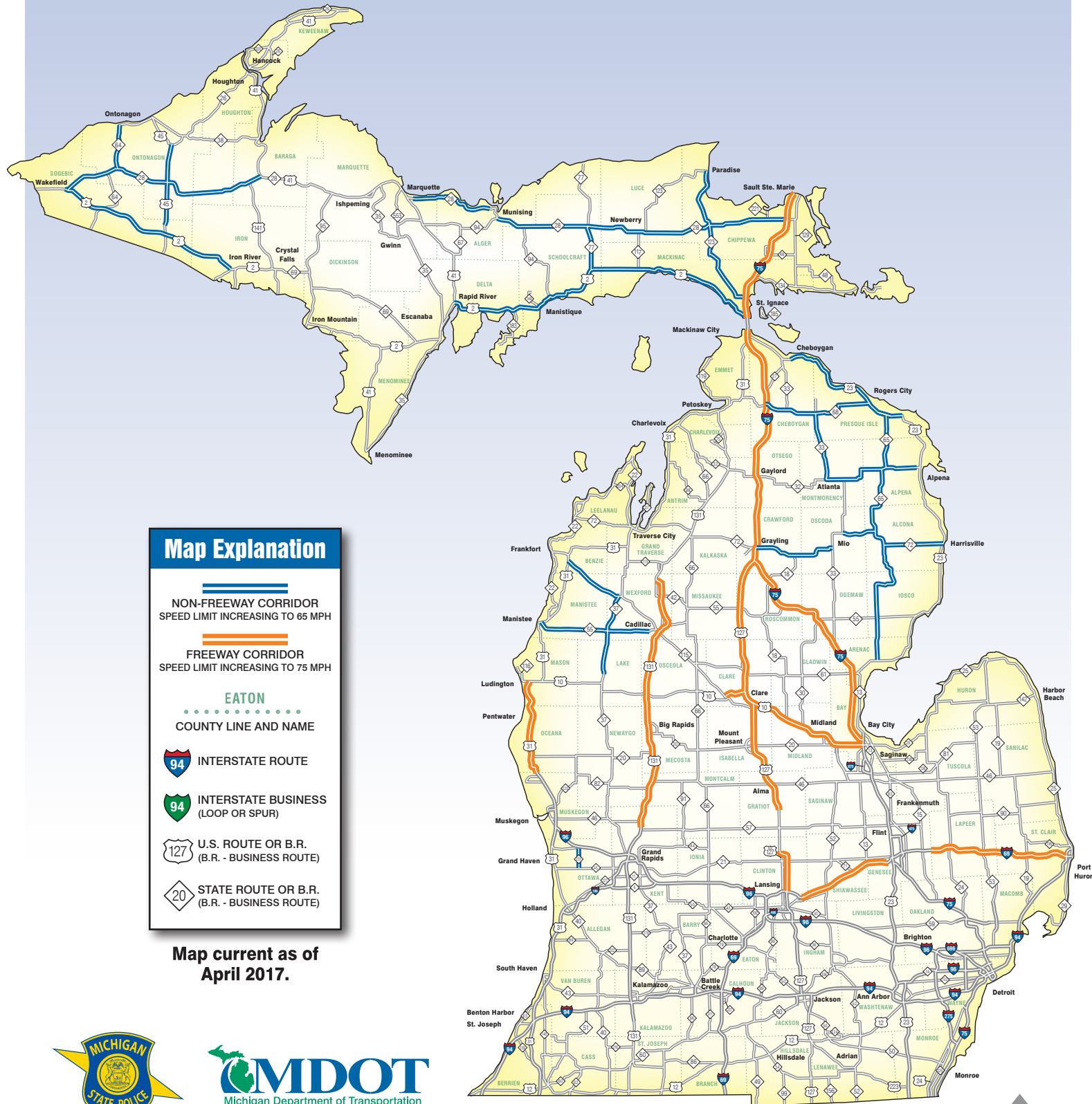
While implementing these modified speed limits, MDOT also will install advisory speed and curve warning signs, shorten passing zones, move signs, and change pavement markings where necessary. Reduced speed limits in communities along these corridors will remain in place.

More information on these speed limit increases, a map of the routes affected, links to the applicable legislation, and a list of frequently asked questions are posted at

www.michigan.gov/speedlimits.

###

Speed Limit Increases on Michigan Freeways and Non-freeways in 2017



Freeway route speed limit increases to 75 mph				
Route	Starting point	Ending point	Miles	Counties
I-69	I-69 Business Route (Saginaw Highway)	Swartz Creek	33	Clinton, Shiawassee, Genesee
I-69	Genesee/Lapeer county line	I-94	51	Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair
I-75	Bay City	Mackinaw City	175	Bay, Arenac, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Crawford, Otsego, Cheboygan, Emmet
I-75	St. Ignace	Sault Ste. Marie	50	Mackinac, Chippewa
US-10	M-115	I-75	57	Clare, Isabella, Midland, Bay
US-31	South Oceana County line	US-10	37	Oceana, Mason
US-127	I-69	St. Johns	18	Clinton
US-127	Ithaca	I-75	98	Gratiot, Isabella, Clare, Roscommon, Crawford
US-131	M-57	North of Manton	95	Kent, Montcalm, Mecosta, Osceola, Wexford
			614	

Non-freeway route speed limit increases to 65 mph				
Route	Starting point	Ending point	Miles	Counties
US-2	Rapid River	St. Ignace	119	Delta, Schoolcraft, Mackinac
US-2	Wakefield	Iron River	67	Gogebic, Iron
US-23	East of Cheboygan	East of M-65	47	Cheboygan, Presque Isle
US-45	North of US-2	M-26	33	Gogebic, Ontonagon
M-28	East of Harvey	Christmas	33	Marquette, Alger
M-28	Munising	I-75	109	Alger, Schoolcraft, Luce, Chippewa
M-28	Wakefield	US-41	75	Gogebic, Ontonagon, Houghton, Baraga
M-32	Atlanta	Alpena	36	Montmorency, Alpena
M-33	Atlanta	Onaway	25	Montmorency, Presque Isle
M-37	Wolf Lake	Mesick	35	Lake, Wexford
M-55	US-31	Cadillac West	43	Manistee, Wexford
M-64	M-28	Old M-107	18	Ontonagon
M-65	US-23	M-32 west junction	78	Arenac, Iosco, Alcona, Alpena
M-65	M-32 east junction	US-23	18	Alpena, Presque Isle
M-68	I-75	US-23	40	Cheboygan, Presque Isle
M-72	Grayling	Mio	29	Crawford, Oscoda
M-72	Fairview	M-65 north junction	12	Oscoda, Alcona
M-72	M-65 south junction	Harrisville	22	Alcona
M-77	US-2	M-28	16	Schoolcraft
M-115	Mesick	Benzonia	23	Wexford, Benzie
M-123	I-75	Paradise	53	Mackinac, Chippewa
M-231	M-45	M-104	7	Ottawa
			938	